

12 FEB 1948

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DOS review completed

GENERAL

1. UK seeks understanding with US on Antarctica--US Embassy London reports that the UK desires to obtain US-UK agreement on a procedure to be followed in settling the present territorial disputes in Antarctica. The UK is opposed to a general conference as proposed by Argentina and also rejects any settlement providing for UN trusteeship because such settlement would create an opportunity for Soviet entry into Antarctica. The UK is expected to press for a US-UK agreement before the Bogota conference and apparently desires that the US take the initiative in calling a conference of interested countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Norway, and the South American nations.

2. UK views on Western European union--Devin has informed US Embassy London that little progress can be made in drawing up concrete proposals to implement a Western European union until it is known what aid will be available under the European recovery program. According to a Foreign Office official, the UK Cabinet will on 12 February discuss: (a) whether the treaty involving the UK, France, and the Benelux countries should be directed against Germany or against all aggressors; and (b) the procedural methods to be followed in framing such a pact.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

3. SAUDI ARABIA: King comments on US policy--US Minister Childs transmits an aide memoire from King Ibn Saud in reply to the recent note from the Department of State explaining US

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Document No. 636NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIEDClass. CHANGED TO: TS S 6Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
DDA REG. 77/1763Date: 13 Mar 78 By:

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policy regarding Palestine. Ibn Saud reiterates his implacable opposition to partition. He appreciates that US support of partition was motivated by US public opinion and emphasizes that Arab leaders also must follow a policy which coincides with the prevailing public opinion in their countries. He adds that friendship links his country with the US in the economic field and in "the mutual firm stand against the mutual threat" and expresses the hope that the US will find a way out of the "critical and dangerous" position in which it has been placed through its support of the Zionists. The King reiterates that he cannot accept the "aggressive decision of the UN" and censures the US for suggesting that he use his influence with the Arab states in persuading them to accept partition.

4. IRAN: Soviet note possibly preliminary to troop entry--The Department of State has pointed out to US Embassy Tehran that the recent Soviet note to Iran may be intended as a "warning" prior to the introduction of Soviet troops into northern Iran and that the USSR may try to make a "plausible" legal case for such action on the basis of the 1921 Soviet-Iranian Treaty. The Department therefore believes that Iran should file the Soviet note and the Iranian reply with the UN which is still seized of Iran's case against the USSR.

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